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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Fax: (602) 542-3708
E-mail: pnewman@azcc.gov

July 9, 2010

ORIGINAL

AZ CORP COMMISSION Corporation Commission DOCKETED

JUL - 9 2010

DOCKETED BY

SolarCity Corporation E-20690A-09-0346

Paul Newman Concurrence

I am writing a concurrence for two reasons: (1) to agree with Chairman Mayes' narrowly tailored amendment, and (2) to emphasize that the instant situation could not have been foreseen by the drafters of Arizona's Constitution.

The central-station thermoelectric power plants have not changed much over the past one hundred years. In contrast, the wave of innovation in clean energy sources is sweeping across our country and our state like a breath of fresh air. During the past century we've used coal, natural gas and nuclear energy to boil water; now it's time to use the sun. Twenty years from now, our electricity system is sure to be much different than it is today, with new renewable generation and storage technologies.

This decision doesn't mean we'll be sitting in a dark room without electricity, sweating out the summer months. Rather it will open up Arizona to tens of thousands of jobs, expand our research and development, manufacturing base and skill-sets.

As author Thomas Friedman said recently that the country that solves 'ET' – Energy Technology – will have energy security, economic security, national security, competitive industries, healthier populations and global respect. I strongly agree with his views. The Commissions decision will move to set the economic development table for the State of Arizona and its citizens to harness the suns energy by establishing a fair and level playing field for energy innovation.

In 1931, Thomas Edison said

"We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy—sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a

Commissioner Newman Concurrence SolarCity Corporation E-20690A-09-0346 July 9, 2010 Page 2

source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

Consumers will be protected under the Mayes amendment. The Arizona Attorney General's office has a vigorous and effective consumer fraud division; and data submitted by the Better Business Bureau at the June 30, 2010 Open Meeting during the SolarCity docket public comment showed that while the number of solar *inquiries* is increasing rapidly, the number of complaints remains low.² In addition, SolarCity and other solar providers are subject to Arizona personal jurisdiction and must comply with state statutes that protect consumers against defective products, and predatory and fraudulent practices.

Let's not fear change. Rather we must embrace our solar future, since Arizona has far more to gain than lose. Indeed, Arizona is establishing itself as a leader in development of solar energy and will be a catalyst for our entire nation's energy security.

¹ In conversation with Henry Ford (1931); as quoted in *Uncommon Friends: Life with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Alexis Carrel & Charles Lindbergh* (1987) by James Newton, p. 31

² See attachment from the Better Business Bureau submitted at Open Meeting on June 30, 2010.

Start With Trust

Better Business Bureau Serving Central, Northern & Western Arizona 4428 N. 12th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014 1569 W. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86305 602-264-1727 | 928-772-3410

arizonabbb.org

BBB SOLAR INDUSTRY STATISTICS*

Solar Industry Complaints

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		5009	36 Month	15,066	1,384	1,091	705	559	10	18,815
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		2007	Consumer Inquiries	Solar Energy Equipment & Systems Dealers	Solar Energy Equipment & Systems Service/Repair	Solar Energy Equipment & Sys. Mfg./Dist.	Solar Energy System Design & Installation	Solar Energy Equipment & Systems Supplies/Parts	sts- Retail	Totals
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Solar Industry Inquiries

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